

projects, or any number of other volunteer efforts in our community. The congregation at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church continually sets an example of living a life of faith by raising our future generations in an atmosphere that fosters love, service and a sense of community.

Madam Speaker, today it is my honor to recognize Steele Creek Presbyterian Church. They have demonstrated a level of commitment to community that is well appreciated, and it serves as an example for us all. It is a privilege to represent the Steele Creek congregation, and I wish them many more years of worship and service.

#### A TRIBUTE TO HARDY WILLIAMS

### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and work of my friend Hardy Williams, the late State Senator from Philadelphia. Senator Williams was a pioneer in championing African American causes in Philadelphia and dedicated his life to serving his community.

Senator Williams was born April 14, 1931 and raised in West Philadelphia. A product of the School District of Philadelphia, Sen. Williams graduated from Pennsylvania State University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and began his groundbreaking work shortly thereafter. He organized the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus in 1972, and served five successful terms as a State Representative.

In 1982 he was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate. During his tenure in the Senate, Sen. Williams served as minority chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and chairman of a task force on violence as a public health issue. In 1994, he founded and served as executive director of Black Family Services. Sen. Williams also founded the Organized Anti-Crime Community Network. He worked with Blacks Networking for Progress, the Delaware Valley Ecumenical Council, and the African-American Delaware Valley Port Corporation. Sen. Hardy was instrumental in establishing the Crisis Intervention Network, a program dedicated to preventing violence among youths.

Senator Hardy Williams' long and impressive career showcases his commitment, service, and dedication to bettering his community. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Sen. Williams, and honor him for the great work he has done for the people of Philadelphia.

#### IN HONOR OF NAVY SEAL SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR FIRST CLASS JEREMY WISE

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero. On December 30,

2009, our state and nation lost a great patriot when former Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Jeremy Wise, aged 35, died in an attack on a CIA outpost near Khost, Afghanistan. He died when a terrorist detonated a bomb at the facility killing seven Americans in the attack.

Petty Officer Wise was raised in Arkansas by his loving parents, Dr. Jean and Mary Wise, and graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Although I never had the honor to meet Petty Officer Wise, I extend my deepest condolences on behalf of all Arkansans to his family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances for this devastating loss.

Petty Officer Wise joined the U.S. Navy in 2001 where he rose to the rank of Special Warfare Operator First Class as a Navy SEAL, joining an elite group of service men and women. Petty Officer Wise served with the U.S. Navy until September 2009. After his Naval service, he headed to the front lines in Afghanistan as a security contractor doing the important work over there that needs to be done to secure our nation here at home. Throughout his extended period of service to our nation, Petty Officer Wise was an exemplary serviceman who embodied the true patriot.

My deepest thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Dana; son, Ethan; parents, Jean and Mary; and the rest of his family during this extraordinarily difficult time.

Today, I ask all members of Congress to join me as we honor the life of Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Jeremy Wise and his legacy, as well as each man and woman in our armed forces, and those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country.

#### BULGARIA SETS PACE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Bulgaria, I would like to commend Prime Minister Boyko Borisov and the country of Bulgaria for their fiscal soundness.

According to a January 12, 2010 article in The Wall Street Journal, countries around the world, including the United States, could learn from the Bulgarians as proponents of a free market democracy. Bulgaria entered the European Union (EU) in 2007 and succeeded in producing the smallest budget deficit among the 27 member nations last year. (They are not yet part of the euro zone, which currently consists of 16 EU nations.) As a dynamic member of NATO, Bulgaria is a valued partner of America.

Bulgaria is on track to be the only EU nation to balance its 2010 budget. The country was able to manage its budget by instituting key fiscal strategies. The most basic example was the capital city's ability to freeze wages and pensions for those in the government, re-evaluate costly state investment projects, and slash government spending by 15 percent. Such efforts resulted in a "full-year deficit of less than 500 million lev (\$370 million), or 0.8

percent of gross domestic product. The closest country to do so was Germany with 3.4 percent.

Given the international attention to Bulgaria's fiscal strategy, European leaders will now understand Bulgaria has arrived on the world stage. Continuing economic progress could help Bulgaria leapfrog other euro desiring countries, like Romania and Hungary who had to be given bailouts from the International Monetary Fund, IMF, due to the downturn, where as Bulgaria has not and does not intend to ask the IMF for assistance. Even Poland, who has been rethinking their entering the euro currency nations club, may be outpaced by Bulgaria as a currency member nation.

Bulgaria's decision to tackle the difficult issue of spending and budget deficits, which plagued their country in the past, is now a model for other Baltic states where deficits are rising. Further evidence of their success is the credit-rating agency Standard & Poor's has upgraded Bulgaria's status as stable.

I commend Prime Minister Borisov and Finance Minister Simeon Djankov for their visionary work elevating Bulgaria as a major player in the EU and world. Entry into the euro should be given serious consideration by the EU as a result of these major achievements.

#### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARLES ALLEN

### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 13, 2010*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, Reverend Charles L. Allen. Sr., Pastor of the Greater Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church, is retiring after thirty-two years of dedicated service. I am pleased to join his parishioners in thanking Reverend Allen for his devoted service to his church and community.

Reverend Allen has served in many capacities throughout his years in the ministry. Among the many positions Reverend Allen has held are President of the Puritan District Congress of Texas and advisor to the City Wide Ushers Association. Reverend Allen also taught Moody Bible College courses to his parishioners and other interested members of the community. Reverend Allen served in the United States Army from 1952 until 1954.

Under Reverend Allen's leadership, Greater Mount Nebo experienced a tremendous increase in membership. Reverend Allen helped ensure Greater Mount Nebo had sufficient resources to construct a new edifice and retire the church's mortgage. Reverend Allen also helped his congregation, and the entire community, by organizing a variety of education courses.

Reverend Allen's parishioners benefited not just from his teachings, but from his personal example. Reverend Allen treats everyone who crosses his path with integrity and compassion. The vitality and warmth exhibited by this spiritual and dedicated leader has earned him the respect and admiration of those individuals who have been privileged to know and work with him.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the congregation of Greater Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church in